

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (Currently Amended) A monitoring apparatus capable of acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored and communicating with a management apparatus, the monitoring apparatus comprising[[:]:

an e-mail-device that carries unit configured to carry out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail;

a processing-device unit configured to be operable when said e-mail-device unit has received second modules for updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, from the management apparatus by e-mail, to automatically update the first modules in operation to the second modules;

an information collecting-device that unit configured to collect[[]s]] version information on the first modules when said e-mail-device unit has received a version information acquisition request from the management apparatus by e-mail; and

a returning-device that unit configured to send[[s]] the version information collected by said information collecting-device unit to the management apparatus by return e-mail.

2. (Currently Amended) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving-device that unit configured to receive[[s]] an update instruction e-mail containing at least the second modules and an install script, and an acquisition request e-mail requesting acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the first modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole[[:]],

wherein said processing-device unit is configured to activate[[s]] the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received by said receiving-device unit, and to update[[s]] the first modules in operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received by said receiving-device unit, and said information collecting device unit is configured to collect[[s]] the version information in response to the acquisition request e-mail received by said receiving-device unit, and said returning device unit is configured to send[[s]] the version information collected by said information collecting device unit to the management apparatus by return e-mail.

3. (*Currently Amended*) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a decoding-device that unit configured to decode[[s]] contents of an e-mail received by said e-mail-device unit, and wherein said processing-device unit is configured to interpret[[s]] an instruction from the management apparatus from the contents of the received e-mail decoded by said decoding unit-device, and to perform[[s]] processing according to the interpreted contents of the e-mail.

4. (*Currently Amended*) A management apparatus capable of managing a plurality of monitoring apparatuses that acquire information by communication from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored, the management apparatus comprising:

an instructing-device that unit configured to collectively instruct[[s]] the plurality of monitoring apparatuses to update first modules, on which the plurality of monitoring apparatuses operate, to second modules by e-mail;

an acquisition requesting-device that unit configured to collectively give[[s]] a request for acquisition of version information on the first modules to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses by e-mail; and

an acquisition requesting-device that unit configured to acquire[[s]] the version information from the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as replies to e-mails for requesting acquisition of the version information sent by said acquisition requesting-device unit.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said instructing-device unit is configured to collectively transmit[[s]] update instruction e-mails containing at least the second modules for updating the first modules of respective ones of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses and an install script to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, said acquisition requesting-device unit is configured to collectively transmit[[s]] acquisition request e-mails for requesting acquisition of version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the modules in each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses and a version of each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as a whole to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, and said acquisition requesting-device unit is configured to receive[[s]] the version information from the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as replies to the acquisition request e-mails transmitted by said acquisition requesting-device unit.

6. (*Currently Amended*) A management apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a determining-device that unit configured to compare[[s]] version information indicative of versions of the first modules to be taken after update of the first modules in accordance with an instruction for updating the first modules to the second modules with the version information acquired by said acquisition-device unit to determine whether the first modules have been successfully updated.

7. (*Currently Amended*) A management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said instructing-device unit is configured to collectively instruct[[s]] the monitoring apparatuses to update the first modules when said determining-device unit ascertains that the modules have not been successfully updated.

8. (*Original*) A management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the version information indicative of versions of the first modules to be taken after update of the first modules is second version information indicative of a version of each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as a whole, and the second version information corresponds to a combination of the first modules in each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses.

9. (*Currently Amended*) A control method executed by a monitoring apparatus capable of acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicating with a management apparatus, the method comprising[[;]]:

    a communication step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail;

    a processing step of automatically updating first modules-in-operation, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to second modules for updating the first modules when the second modules is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step;

    an information collecting step of collecting version information on the first modules when a version information acquisition request is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step; and

    a returning step of sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return mail.

10. (*Currently Amended*) A control method according to claim 9, further comprising[[::]] a receiving step of receiving an update instruction e-mail containing at least the second modules and an install script, and an acquisition request e-mail requesting acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole[[::]],

wherein said processing step comprises activating the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step, and updating the first modules in operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step, and said information collecting step comprises collecting the version information in response to the acquisition request e-mail received in said receiving step, and said returning step comprises sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return e-mail.

11. (*Currently Amended*) A control method according to claim 9,further comprising a decoding step of decoding contents of an e-mail received in said communication step, and wherein said processing step comprises interpreting an instruction from the management apparatus from the contents of the received e-mail decoded in said decoding step, and performing processing according to the interpreted contents of the e-mail.

12. (*Currently Amended*) A control method executed by a management apparatus capable of managing a plurality of monitoring apparatuses that acquire information by communication from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored, the method comprising:

an instructing step of collectively instructing the plurality of monitoring apparatuses to update first modules, on which the plurality of monitoring apparatuses operate, to second modules by e-mail;

an acquisition requesting step of collectively giving a request for acquisition of version information on the first modules to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses by e-mail; and

an acquisition step of acquiring the version information from the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as replies to e-mails for requesting acquisition of the version information sent in said acquisition requesting step.

13. (*Original*) A control method according to claim 12, wherein said instructing step comprises collectively transmitting update instruction e-mails containing at least the second modules for

updating the first modules of respective ones of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses and an install script to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, said acquisition requesting step comprises collectively transmitting acquisition request e-mails for requesting acquisition of version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the modules in each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses and a version of each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as a whole to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, and said acquisition step comprises receiving the version information from the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as replies to the acquisition request e-mails transmitted in said acquisition requesting step.

14. (*Currently Amended*) A control method according to claim 12, further comprising a determining step of comparing version information indicative of versions of the first modules to be taken after update of the first modules in accordance with an instruction for updating the first modules to the second modules with the version information acquired in said acquisition step to determine whether the first modules have been successfully updated.

15. (*Currently Amended*) A control method according to claim [[12]]14, wherein said instructing step comprises collectively instructing the monitoring apparatuses to update the first modules when it is determined in said determining step that the first modules have not been successfully updated.

16. (*Currently Amended*) A control method according to claim [[15]]14, wherein the version information indicative of versions of the first modules to be taken after update of the first modules is second version information indicative of a version of each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as a whole, and the second version information corresponds to a combination of the first modules in each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses.

17. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to execute executing a control method implemented by a monitoring apparatus capable of acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicating with a management apparatus, the method comprising[:]: a communication step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail;

a processing step of automatically updating first modules in operation, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to second modules for updating the first modules when the second modules for updating the modules is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step;

an information collecting step of collecting version information on the first modules when a version information acquisition request is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step; and

a returning step of sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return mail.

18. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to execute executing a control method implemented by a management apparatus capable of managing a plurality of monitoring apparatuses that acquire information by communication from a plurality of image forming apparatuses to be monitored, the method comprising:

an instructing step of collectively instructing the plurality of monitoring apparatuses to update first modules, on which the plurality of monitoring apparatuses operate, to second modules by e-mail;

an acquisition requesting step of collectively giving a request for acquisition of version information on the first modules to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses; and

an acquisition step of acquiring the version information from the plurality of monitoring apparatuses as replies to e-mails for requesting acquisition of the version information sent in said acquisition requesting step.

19. (*New*) A monitoring apparatus capable of acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored and communicating with a management apparatus, the monitoring apparatus comprising:

an e-mail unit configured to carry out communication with the management apparatus by email;

a processing unit configured to be operable when said e-mail unit has received an update instruction e-mail containing at least second modules for updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, and an install script from the management apparatus,

to automatically update the first modules in operation to the second modules corresponding to description of the install script;

an information collecting unit configured to collect version information on the first modules when said e-mail unit has received an acquisition request e-mail that requests acquisition of the version information on the first modules from the management apparatus by e-mail; and

a returning unit configured to send the version information collected by said information collecting unit to the management apparatus by return e-mail,

wherein the install script includes at least one or more commands which are executable in an operating system including said processing unit in the monitoring apparatus.

20. (New) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the acquisition request e-mail requests acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the first modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole.

21. (New) A control method executed by a monitoring apparatus capable of acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicating with a management apparatus, the method comprising:

a communication step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by email;

a processing step of automatically updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to second modules corresponding to description of the install script when an update instruction e-mail containing at least second modules for updating first modules and an install script are received from the management apparatus in said communication step;

an information collecting step of collecting version information on the first modules when an acquisition request e-mail that requests acquisition of the version information on the first modules from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step; and

a returning step of sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return e-mail,

wherein the install script includes at least one or more commands which are executable in an operating system including said processing step in the monitoring apparatus.

22. (New) A control method according to claim 21, wherein the acquisition request e-mail requests acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the first modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole.